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[54] **ANIMATED DOLL**

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[51] **Int. Cl.**[3] **A63H 13/02;** A63H 11/00

[52] **U.S. Cl.** ..... **46/141;** 46/135 R

[58] **Field of Search** ..... 46/141, 135 R

[56] **References Cited**

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

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[57] **ABSTRACT**

An animated doll includes a body having a head with a face including a mouth defined by lips formed of flexible material. An operator is secured to the lips behind the face and is reciprocated to move the lips inwardly and outwardly in a suckling type action. The nipple of a nursing bottle or the thumb of the doll's hand is manually insertable into the doll's mouth to provide realism when the lips are activated as described.

8 Claims, 4 Drawing Figures

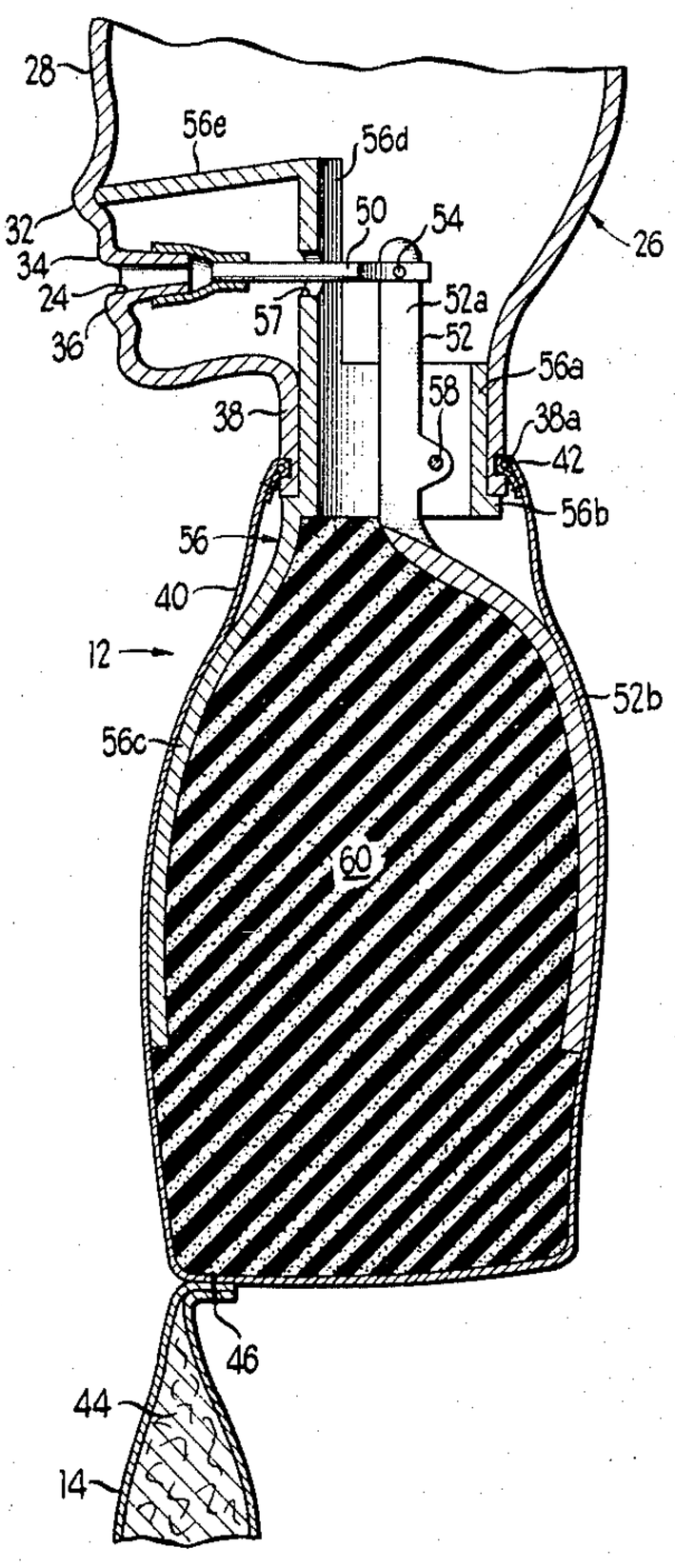


Fig 1

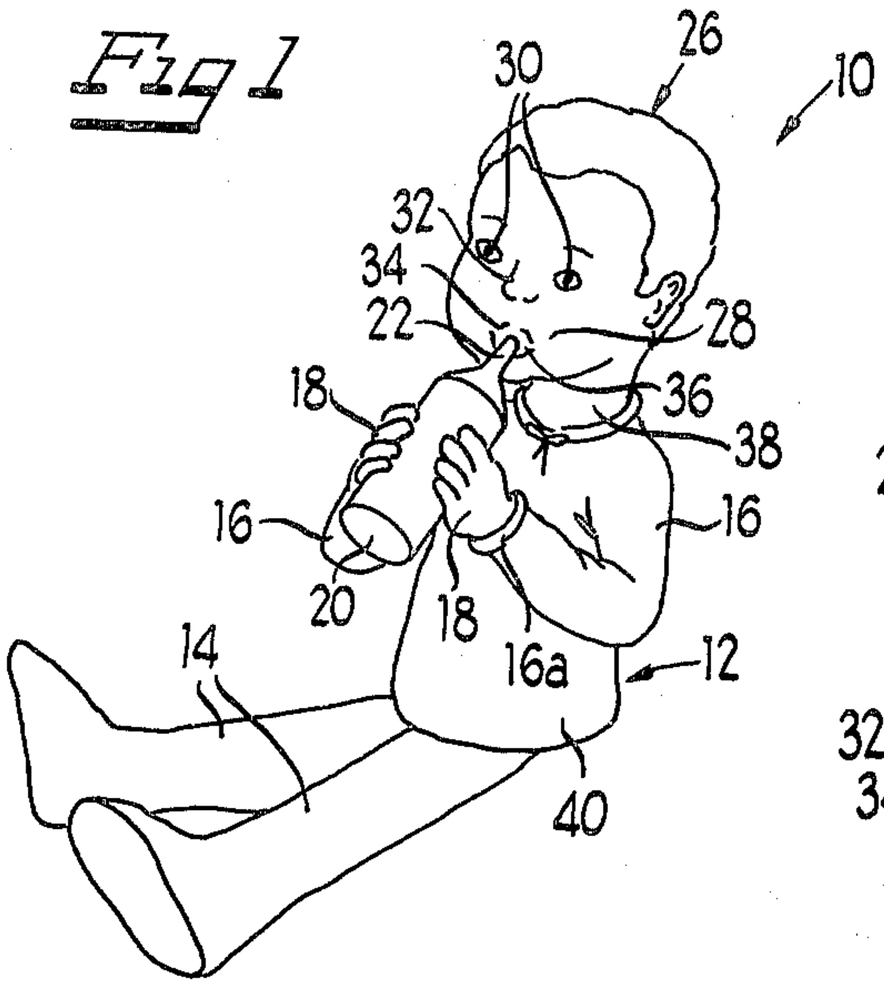
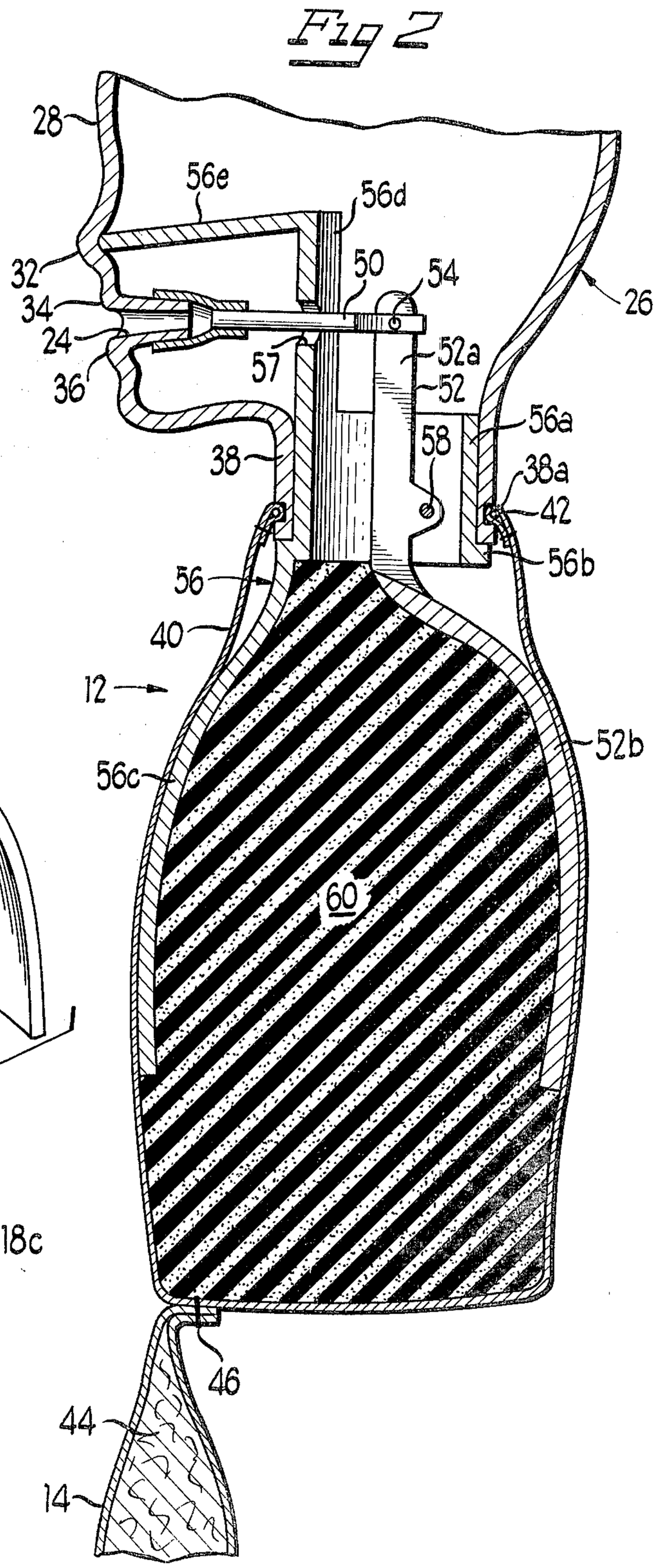


Fig 2



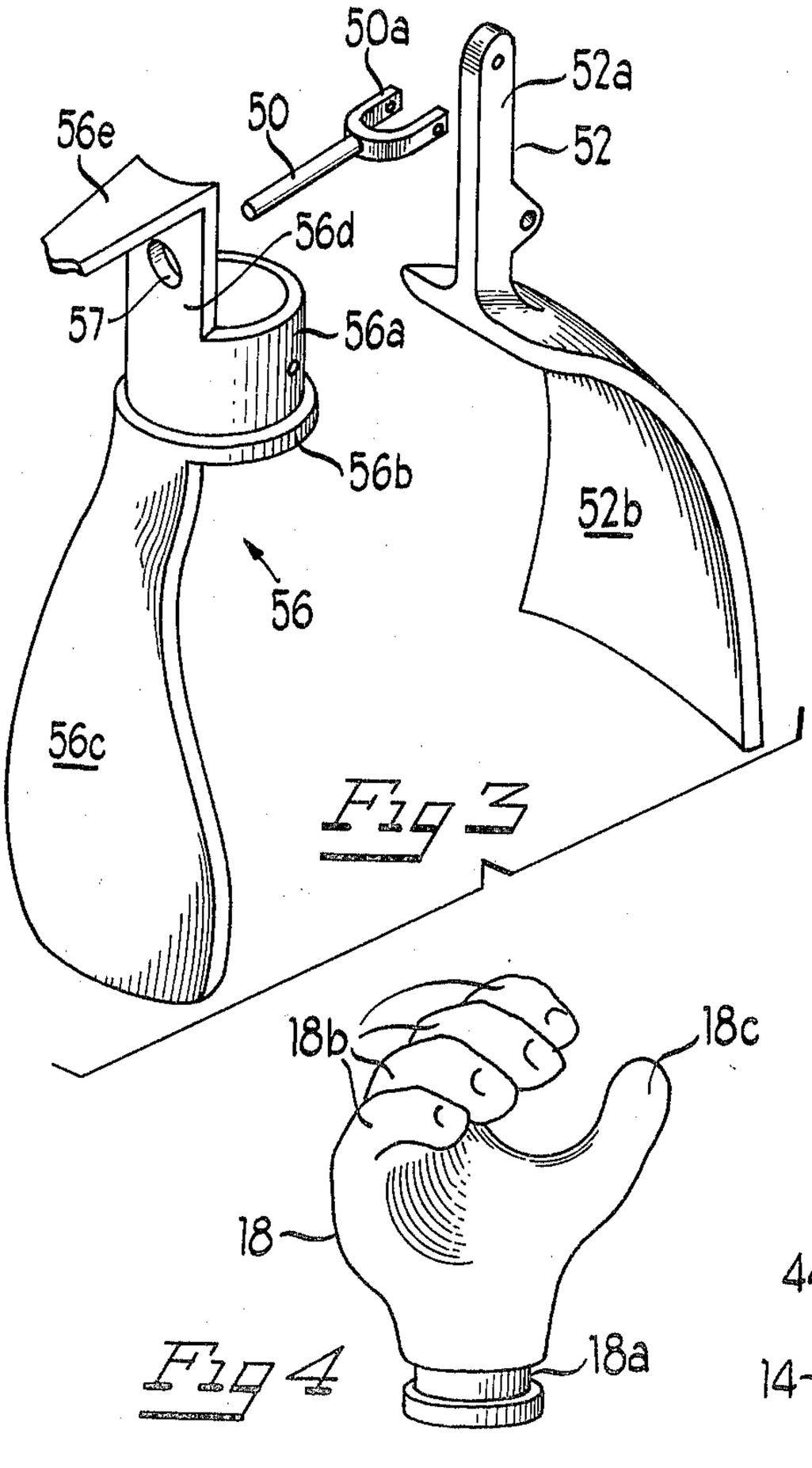


Fig 3

Fig 4

ANIMATED DOLL

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to a new and improved animated doll and more particularly to a baby doll which is manually activated to closely resemble a baby or young child nursing from a bottle or sucking its thumb.

2. Description of the Prior Art

A wide variety of animated dolls have been provided and some of the prior art dolls have been capable of animation resembling a young child or baby nursing from a bottle, sucking its thumb or eating a lollipop. U.S. Pat. Nos. 2,572,795; 3,092,292 and 3,911,614 disclose animated dolls of different constructions which are activated to simulate the real life actions of bottle nursing, thumbsucking and eating.

OBJECTS OF THE INVENTION

It is an object of the present invention to provide a new and improved animated doll which is operable to more realistically simulate the suckling type action of a young child or baby when nursing from a bottle or sucking its thumb.

Another object of the present invention is to provide a new and improved animated doll of the character described which is capable of closely simulating the action of nursing from a bottle which is held or supported in the doll's hand.

Yet another object of the present invention is to provide a new and improved realistic animated doll which is manually activated to provide thumb-sucking or nursing action by squeezing and releasing the doll's body.

Another object of the invention is to provide a new and improved animated doll of the character described having at least one movable arm with a hand especially adapted for holding a nursing bottle and provided with a thumb adapted to be inserted into the doll's mouth for thumbsucking action.

Yet another object of the present invention is to provide a new and improved animated nursing/thumbsucking doll which is low in cost, easy to operate and which provides a highly realistic simulation of a young child or baby nursing from a bottle or sucking its thumb.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The foregoing and other objects and advantages of the present invention are accomplished in a new and improved, animated, nursing/thumbsucking doll which includes a body having a head with a face including a mouth defined by lips formed of flexible material. An operator is secured to the lips behind the face for reciprocation to move the lips inwardly and outwardly closely resembling a suckling type action. The doll is provided with at least one movable arm having a hand which is shaped to hold a nursing bottle with the nipple inserted into the doll's mouth. The doll's hand is also provided with a thumb designed to be inserted into the doll's mouth to provide thumb sucking action along with the doll's capability of nursing from a bottle.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

For a better understanding of the present invention, reference should be had to the following detailed description taken in conjunction with the drawings, in which:

FIG. **1** is a front perspective view of a new and improved, animated, nursing/thumbsucking doll constructed in accordance with the features of the present invention;

FIG. **2** is a longitudinal cross-sectional view of the doll of FIG. **1**; and

FIG. **3** is a front perspective view of an internal operating mechanism used for providing a nursing/thumbsucking action of the doll.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

Referring now more particularly to the drawings there is illustrated in FIG. **1** a perspective view of a new and improved, animated, nursing/thumbsucking doll referred to generally by the reference numeral **10** and constructed in accordance with the features of the present invention. The doll **10** includes a body **12** having a pair of legs **14** attached to a lower end portion and a pair of movable arms **16** having hands **18** (FIG. **4**) adapted to hold a nursing bottle **20** in the position shown with a nipple **22** inserted into the mouth opening **24** of the doll's head **26**.

The doll's head **26** is formed of thin, flexible, molded plastic material and is generally hollow including a frontal, facial wall **28** shaped to provide the usual facial features including a pair of eyes **30**, a nose **32** and a pair of upper and lower lips **34** and **36** around the periphery of the mouth opening **24**.

At the lower end, the doll's head **26** is formed with a depending neck **38** having an annular groove **38***a* on the outer surface, in which groove is seated the upper end or neck portion of an outer cover or wall **40** on the doll's body. The cover is preferably formed of thin flexible material such as cloth and is provided with a tie string **42** around the neck to secure the doll's body and the head together.

The legs and arms of the doll are similarly provided with an outer surface or cover formed of thin flexible material such as cloth and are filled with light stuffing material **44** as illustrated in FIG. **2**. The legs **14** are attached to the doll's body by stitching **46** and a similar means of attachment is provided for the arms **16**. The doll's hands **18** are formed of somewhat stiffer molded plastic material and each hand is formed with an annular groove **18***a* on the outer surface of a wrist portion for accommodating a connecting sleeve portion **16***a* on the arm which is secured by means of a drawstring in a manner similar to (not shown) the drawstring or tie string **42**.

At least one hand is shaped with curved fingers **18***b* as shown and an oppositely curved thumb **18***c* which are adapted to form a recess for accommodating and holding the nursing bottle **20** which is inserted between the thumb and fingers as illustrated in FIG. **1**. The thumb **18***c* is also dimensioned to be inserted into the doll's mouth opening **24** in a manner similar to the insertion of the nipple **22** of the nursing bottle **20**.

The hand **18** is selectively positioned by manual rotation on its supporting arm **16** and this permits the hand to be properly positioned, either for holding the nursing bottle, or in the alternative for thumbsucking with the thumb **18***c* inserted in the doll's mouth **24**.

In accordance with the present invention, the flexible plastic material of the facial wall **28** of the doll's head **26** is integrally formed to extend inwardly from the outer

lips **34** and **36** to form a hollow tubular mouth sleeve which projects inwardly for some distance into the interior of the hollow head **26** as illustrated.

An attachment element **48** is connected to the inner end of the tubular mouth sleeve and the attachment is secured to the forward end portion of an actuator rod **50**. The actuator rod is pivotally interconnected at its rearward or inner end to the upper end **52***a* of an actuating lever **52** which projects downwardly through the neck **38** into the interior of the doll's body.

As illustrated best in FIG. **3**, the actuator rod **50** includes a yoke **50***a* at the inner end having a pair of legs disposed on opposite sides of the upper end portion **52***a* of the actuator lever **52**, and the yoke is pivotally interconnected to the lever by a pivot pin **54**.

In accordance with the invention, the doll **10** includes an internal stiffening member **56** having an annular base comprising a cylindrical sleeve **56***a* which extends upwardly into the neck **38** in the hollow head **26** of the doll as illustrated. The base sleeve **56***a* is formed with an outwardly extending integral annular flange **56***b* at the lower end and the lower edge of the neck **38** is seated against the upper surface of the flange as shown. The stiffening member also includes an enlarged, forward wall portion **56***c* extending downwardly of the sleeve or base **56***a* and shaped to lie closely adjacent the outer wall cover **40** of the doll's body as illustrated in FIG. **2**. In addition, the internal stiffener includes an upwardly extending post **56***d* having a circular opening **57** therein for accommodating the outer end portion of the actuator rod **50**. At the upper end of the post **56***d* an outwardly extending, nose stiffening element **56***e* is integrally formed and this element engages the inside surface of the facial wall **28** in the area of the doll's nose **32** as illustrated in FIG. **2**. The nose stiffening element prevents inward retraction of the nose portion and the upper facial wall in general as the lips of the doll's mouth **24** are moved inwardly and outwardly by reciprocation of the actuator rod **50**.

The actuator lever **52** is pivotally supported intermediate its ends on a transverse pin **58** carried by the annular base **56***a* of the stiffener and is rockable back and forth. The lever includes a handle portion **52***b* extending downwardly from the pivot pin **58** and this handle portion is enlarged and shaped to match and lie closely adjacent the outer surface of the doll's body wall **40** on the rear or backside thereof. Between the relatively stiff, front wall stiffener **56***c* and the handle **52***b*, the doll's body is filled with a compressible foam rubber material **60** which tends to maintain the handle **52***b* in the position as shown. The portions **56***c* and **52***b* provide a relatively stiff front and back wall support or shell for the body of the doll and permit the body to be squeezed and released on a repetitive basis compressing the foam material **60** each cycle. When squeezing pressure is released, the foam returns the elements **56***a* and **52***b* to the normal position as shown. Squeezing and release of the doll's body activates the lips **34** and **36** of the mouth **24** to simulate a suckling type action including nursing from the nipple **22** of the inserted nursing bottle **20** or thumbsucking with the thumb **18***c* of one of the doll's hands **18** inserted into the doll's mouth. The foam rubber material **60** within the doll's body resiliently biases the rear wall handle **52***b* of the actuating lever **52** outwardly away from the front wall portion **56***c* toward the normal position as shown, each time the squeezing pressure on the doll's body is released. In addition, the foam **60** serves to provide the desired body shape inside the cover **40**.

From the foregoing it will be seen that the animated nursing thumbsucking doll **10**, constructed in accordance with the present invention is realistic in appearance and closely simulates the real life, suckling type action of a young child or baby while nursing or thumb sucking.

Although the present invention has been described with reference to a single illustrated embodiment thereof, it should be understood that numerous other modifications and embodiments can be devised by those skilled in the art that will fall within the spirit and scope of the principles of this invention.

What is claimed as new and desired to be secured by Letters Patent of the United States is:

1. An animated doll capable of suckling a member telescoped within said doll comprising:

a body having a head with a face including a mouth defined by spaced apart lips formed of flexible material and a tubular mouth sleeve extending from said lips inwardly into the interior of said head;

manually operable means connected to said lips and said mouth sleeve behind said face, said manually operable means being reciprocally movable to move said lips inwardly and outwardly with respect to said face in a suckling type action and to move said mouth sleeve generally in a direction parallel to its axis, said operator means including a reciprocal actuator, engaging said sleeve;

said head including an outer facial wall of thin flexible plastic material, said head being a hollow enclosure having stiffening means internally of said head engaging said facial wall in a position spaced apart from said mouth for preventing retractive movement of said facial wall away from said mouth when said actuator is operatively moving said tubular mouth sleeve inwardly and outwardly; and

means connected to said body for defining a member for insertion within said tubular mouth sleeve of said doll during the reciprocal movement of said lips.

2. The doll of claim **1** wherein said actuator includes a first element reciprocal longitudinally in a direction extending inward of said facial wall and including a second element mounted for pivotal movement and connected to reciprocate said first element upon rocking movement of said second element, said second element including a handle portion adjacent an outer surface of said body of said doll adapted for movement in response to force applied on said surface to initiate said rocking movement to move said lips.

3. The doll of claim **2** including resilient means for biasing said handle portion to move in a direction opposite that of said applied force, said resilient means being a body of compressible resilient material.

4. The doll of claim **1** including at least one movable arm on said body having a hand with a finger thereon adapted for insertion in said mouth.

5. The doll of claim **1** including in combination a nursing bottle having a nipple at one end adapted for insertion in said mouth.

6. The combination of claim **5** wherein said doll includes at least one movable arm on said body having a hand with fingers adapted to hold said nursing bottle when said bottle is positioned with said nipple inserted in said mouth.

7. The combination of claim **6** wherein at least one of said fingers is adapted to be inserted in said mouth.

8. The combination of claim **6** wherein said hand is mounted on said arm for rotative movement about a longitudinal axis of an adjacent portion of said arm to manually selected relative rotational position on said adjacent portion.

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